

Attorney's Docket No. 998-904DV

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Gebreselassie et al.

Confirmation No.: 5606

Serial No.: 10/726,391

Group Art Unit: 3726

Filed: December 3, 2003

Examiner: Omgba, Essama

For: **VEHICLE COCKPIT ASSEMBLIES HAVING INTEGRATED DASH
INSULATORS, INSTRUMENT PANELS AND FLOOR COVERINGS, AND
METHODS OF INSTALLING SAME WITHIN VEHICLES**

Date: January 25, 2005

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF DECEMBER 23, 2004

Sir:

Applicants provide the present Amendment to address the issues raised in the Office Action (the "Action") mailed December 23, 2004. Applicants provide the present Amendment pursuant to the rules stated in revised 37 C.F.R. 1.121 that became effective on July 30, 2003.

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providing a dash insulator that is configured to be attached to the vehicle firewall, and that includes an upper substrate having opposite first and second surfaces and opposite first and second edge portions, a lower substrate having opposite third and fourth surfaces and opposite third and fourth edge portions, wherein the upper and lower substrates are configured to be joined together along the respective second and third edge portions;

attaching an instrument panel to the upper substrate first edge portion to form a first cockpit assembly portion;

attaching a floor covering to the lower substrate fourth edge portion to form a second cockpit assembly portion;

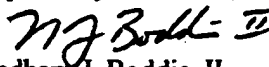
installing the first and second cockpit assembly portions within a vehicle such that the first and second substrates are attached to the firewall; and

joining the upper and lower substrates together along the second and third edge portions thereof.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the recitations of independent Claim 51. As such, dependent Claims 52-58 are not rendered obvious by any of the above-cited references, alone or in combination. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the present rejection of Claims 42-58 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Erin A. Campion